



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information in Blue Text

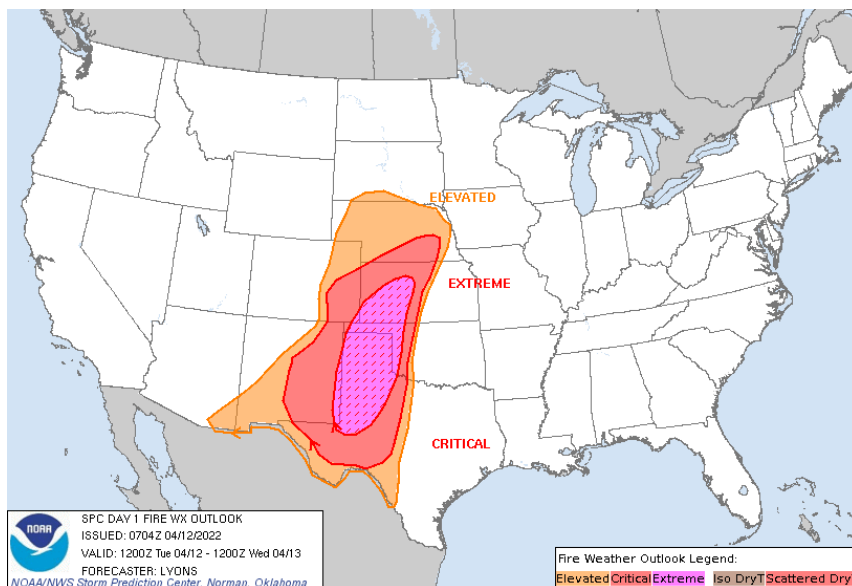
Event Name	22-0009 Wildfire Outbreak 17MAR
Date	April 12, 2022
Time	9:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM April 11 to 8:00 AM April 12, 2022
Report Number	26

Regions Affected

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
DDCs Active	1, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 19 & 20

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) received 4 new requests for assistance for wildfire suppression operations on Monday, April 11. Extreme fire danger conditions have been forecasted today for the Permian Basin north through the Texas Panhandle, with elevated to critical fire weather conditions forecasted for the western half of Texas

NWS Fire Weather Outlook Valid: 7AM 4/12 to 7AM 4/13.



Day 1 Fire Weather Outlook: EXTREMELY CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER AREA FOR PARTS OF WEST TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA INTO KANSAS. CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER AREA FOR MUCH OF THE SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL HIGH PLAINS.

An outbreak of dangerous wildfire conditions is likely across the southern and central high Plains Today!

WEATHER:

Synopsis

A potent upper low observed by regional IR/WV imagery early this morning is currently undergoing rapid deepening across the Central Rockies. Forecast to rapidly eject eastward onto the Plains by early afternoon, this trough and an accompanying 80-90 kt jet streak will support further intensification of an already strong lee low and surface wind field across the southern/central Plains. A dryline trailing the low will bisect a broad warm sector as it mixes east through the afternoon leaving very dry surface conditions in its wake. A rare combination of exceptionally dry fuels and high-end meteorological parameter space lends strong confidence in Extremely Critical fire weather conditions and the possibility of a significant wildfire event across the southern/central High Plains.

West Texas through western Oklahoma and into Kansas

Latest NWP timing guidance has firmed up solutions on the ejection of the primary upper trough and associated jet streak across the Plains. The mid-level system, slightly slower than previous guidance, should begin to move out over the southern and central High Plains by mid-morning. As strong ascent overspreads the High Plains, the lee low should continue to deepen peaking below 990 mb across western NE before quickly moving northeast into the upper Midwest by tonight. With strong surface pressure falls and the emergence of the mid and low-level jet, strong surface winds of 30-45 mph and 55+ mph gusts should quickly develop in the southwest quadrant of the low coincident with the low-level thermal ridge. Subsidence/mixing beneath the jet, downslope trajectories and surface temperatures climbing into the 90s F should rapidly decrease surface RH within the corridor of maximum winds through the afternoon. By peak heating, surface RH in the mid single digits will be possible within the broader area of RH less than 10% across the southern/central High Plains. Peak fire weather conditions are expected from roughly 18-23z across a southwest to northeast corridor from western TX through the Panhandles and western OK into western/central KS where hi-res guidance shows Fosberg index values over 90.

Some uncertainty exists in the eastern extent of Critical and Extremely Critical conditions based on model differences with respect to the dryline. While a tight gradient will exist, strong winds within the surface pressure trough in the vicinity of the dryline will likely support Elevated and Critical fire weather potential. Another concern will be the presence of a fast-moving cold front expected to travel southeast across the Critical area near sunset. Strong winds along the front as well

as a prominent wind shift to the north/northwest may impact fire direction and spread rates despite cooling temperatures and slow rising RH.

Central High Plains

To the west of the main risk corridor, strong downslope winds are expected in the wake of the aforementioned cold front. While uncertainty remains high with respect to surface RH conditions behind the cooler airmass across western NE and SD, at least a few hours of very strong northwesterly winds may align with relatively dry surface conditions amid dry fuels. The Elevated area was expanded westward to account for at least some fire weather potential given the magnitude of low-level flow near the strong surface low.

Across much of the southern/central Plains, fuels states are exceptionally volatile. ERC values in the 90-95th percentile are ubiquitous across the southern High Plains with lesser, but still very dry conditions extending farther north into the central High Plains. Severe drought, several antecedent days of Critical drying and numerous reports of large fires over the preceding days shows fuel beds are extremely receptive to fire starts and spreads. High confidence exists in several hours of Extremely Critical fire weather conditions developing beneath the low-level jet core and thermal ridge axis from west TX, through the Panhandles, western OK, and into western KS. The overlap of rare meteorological and fuel parameter space matches well with several Great Plains wildfire outbreak analogs giving further confidence in significant potential for a widespread and high-end fire weather outbreak.

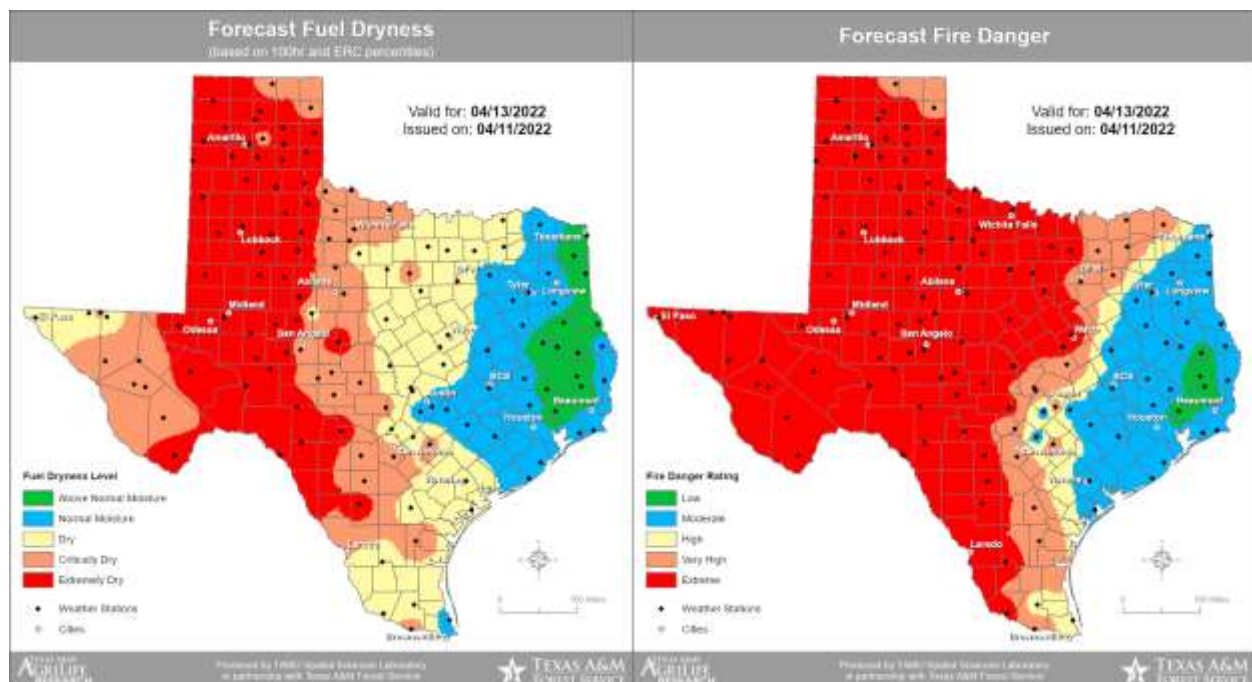
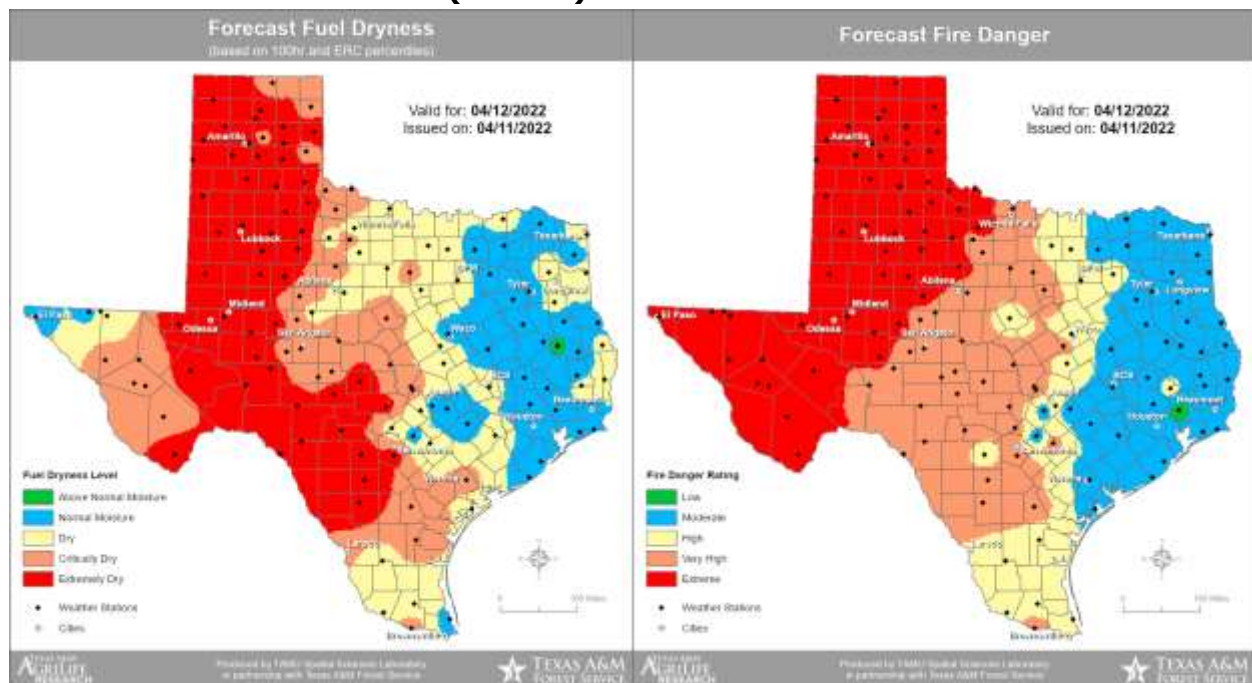
On April 1, Governor Abbott amended the Disaster Declaration, adding Andrews, Aransas, Archer, Bee, Bell, Borden, Bosque, Brewster, Cameron, Coke, Concho, Cooke, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dawson, Dimmit, Duval, Ector, Edwards, Gaines, Garza, Hemphill, Hidalgo, Howard, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kimble, Kleberg, Live Oak, Martin, Maverick, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Nueces, Palo Pinto, Parker, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Refugio, Roberts, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Wichita, Willacy, Winkler, Wise, Zapata, and Zavala counties.

On March 29, Governor Abbott encouraged Texans to remain vigilant and informed on weather conditions as fire danger and severe weather threaten the state.
([Complete Statement Here](#))

On March 27, Governor Abbott amended the Disaster Declaration, adding Medina County.

On March 21, Governor Abbott amended the Disaster Declaration, adding Blanco, Erath, Hood, Runnels, and Starr counties.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) – Predictive Services:



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.

2. Support rapid & effective response and recovery operations.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 1 (Includes DDCs 4 Garland, 4 Hurst, 5, 6, and 22)

DDC 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties)

Cass County: [Cass 2582](#): 6 acres – 100% contained.

DDC 6 – Tyler (Includes: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties)

DDC 6 increased their readiness level to Level III (Increased Readiness Level).

Rusk County:

- [Rusk 2606](#): 50 acres – 100% contained.
- [Rusk 2613](#): 7 acres – 100% contained.

Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16A, 16B, 16C, and 16D)

DDC 14 – Lufkin (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties)

Houston County: [Burke](#): 400 acres – 100% contained.

Sabine County: [Sabine 2576](#): 1.1 acres – 100% contained.

Shelby County: [Shelby 2575](#): 1.7 acres – 100% contained.

DDC 16C – Conroe (Includes: Liberty, Montgomery, Walker, and Waller Counties)

Walker County:

- [Walker 2573](#): 2.7 acres – 100% contained.

Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)

DDC 20 – Corpus Christi (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties)

DDC 20 increased their readiness level to Level III (Increased Readiness Level).

Region 4 (Includes DDCs 8, 9A, 9B and 10)

DDC 10 – San Angelo (Includes: Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green Counties)

McCulloch County: Citation: [8.6 acres](#) – 100% contained.

Region 5 (Includes DDCs 1, 2, 3, and 7)

DDC 1 – Amarillo (Includes: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler Counties)

[DDC 1 will activate to a Level II at noon on Tuesday April 12.](#)

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 18A – San Antonio (Includes: Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, and Medina Counties)

Medina County: Medina Duo: 16 acres - [100% contained](#).

DDC 18B – Bexar (Includes: Atascosa, Bexar, Karnes, McMullen, and Wilson Counties)

Bexar County: Training Area 23: [3,005 acres](#) – 70% contained.

DDC 23 – Killeen (Includes: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba Counties)

Coryell County: Beecham Gap: 17 acres – 95% contained.

San Saba County: Kemp Creek: [38.4 acres](#) – 100% contained.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) – Regional staff have been deployed to impacted areas to assist local officials in damage assessment and identification of needs. The SOC continues to facilitate information sharing and the coordination of response and recovery operations.

TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG): Communications platforms are being identified for possible support if required.

TDEM Disaster Recovery Task Force (DRTF): DRTF HQ staff continue to support mass care at the SOC and actively monitoring the weather situation. DRTF regional staff continue to support local jurisdictions affected by wildfires with damage assessments and organizing VOAD support.

TDEM Mass Care: State partners are supporting local jurisdictions from the wildfires.

TDEM State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL): Disaster non-profits and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters are actively deployed and supporting jurisdictions in TDEM Regions 1, 2, 5 and 6. Planning meetings between local jurisdictions and disaster nonprofits for establishing Multi Agency Resource Centers are ongoing.

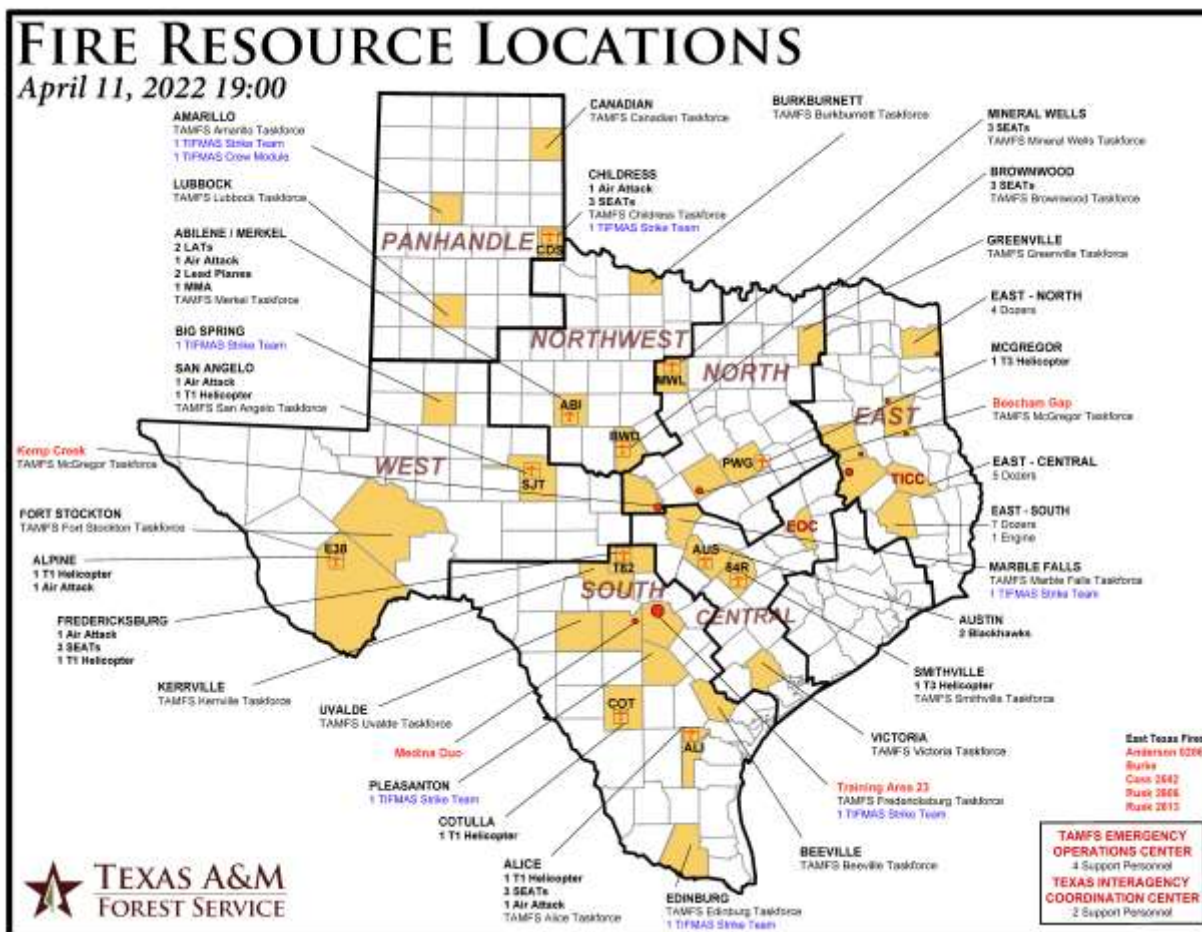
Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team (TEMAT):

The DRTF HQ staff continue to support mass care at the SOC. DRTF regional staff continue to support local jurisdictions affected by wildfires with damage assessments and organizing VOAD support.

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service (Agrilife): AgriLife continues to maintain situational awareness of wildfire incidents across the state.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)/Texas A&M Public Works Response Team (TX-PWRT): TEEX/TX-PWRT personnel managing ESF 3 from the Remote SOC in Austin.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): [TAMFS received 4 new requests for assistance with fire suppression operations on Monday, April 11.](#) Incident Updates can be found here: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>.



Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC): The PUC continues to provide a liaison to the SOC and is monitoring for any outages or other issues with electricity providers. Restoring service where practical behind the fire(s).

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC): The RRC will continue to work with natural gas service providers throughout this event.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC): TAHC continues to maintain situational awareness.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ has staff available to assist local governments with any air/water/waste related issues including drinking water/wastewater issues and/or emergency response activities.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA): TDA continues to staff the Remote SOC as needed as part of the ESF-11 Team. STAR Funds accepting donations and requests for financial assistance.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) – Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF): One Wildland Fire Support (WLFS) Packages are on standby from EMTF's 1, & 9.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): TxDOT is staffing the remote SOC.

Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS): TXDPS continues to staff the remote SOC to maintain situational awareness.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD continues supporting TAMFS in suppressing wildland fires in Texas.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): TPWD has been tasked to provide two firefighting brush trucks.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TDEM DRTF	DRTF HQ Staff	2		Assigned	R-SOC
Agrilife, TAMUS	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TAMFS	Large Air Tanker (LAT)		4	Available	Abilene
TAMFS	Aerial Supervision Aircraft (AA)		1	Available	Abilene
TAMFS	Lead Plane		2	Available	Abilene
TAMFS	Multi Mission Aircraft		1	Available	Abilene
TAMFS	Type I Helicopter		1	Available	Alice
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	Alice
TAMFS	Single Engine Air Tanker (SEATs)		3	Available	Alice
TAMFS	Type 1 Helicopter		1	Available	Alpine
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	Alpine
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Available	Brownwood
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	Childress
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Available	Childress
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	Fredericksburg

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Available	Fredericksburg
TAMFS	Type 1 Helicopter		1	Available	Fredericksburg
TAMFS	Type 3 Helicopter		1	Available	McGregor
TAMFS	Single Engine Air Tanker (Fire Boss)		3	Available	Mineral Wells
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	San Angelo
TAMFS	Type I Helicopter		1	Available	San Angelo
TAMFS	Type 3 Helicopter		1	Available	Smithville
TAMFS	Type 1 Helicopter		1	Available	Cotulla
TAMFS	TAMFS Taskforce	13 Taskforces		Available	Various
TAMFS	Dozer/Tractor Plow		23	Available	Various
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Marble Falls
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Edinburg
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Childress
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Assigned	Pleasanton
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Big Spring
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Amarillo
TIFMAS	TIFMAS Crew Module	22	2	Available	Amarillo
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Assigned	Training Area 23
TIFMAS	TIFMAS Coordinators	2		Available	College Station & Merkel
TIFMAS	Overhead	1		Available	Brownwood
TEEX/TX-TF1 & 2	ESF 9 SOC LNO	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TEEX/TX-PWRT	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	R-SOC
TAHC	SOC Representative	1		Assigned	R-SOC
DSHS EMTF	SOC Liaison	1		Available	R-SOC
DSHS EMTF	Wildland Fire Support Pkg	1		Standby	EMTF's 1, & 9
PUC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
RRC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TCEQ	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TCEQ	DDEOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Abilene
TDA	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TXDPS	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TMD	Rotary Wing (Medium MRP)	16	2	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) for COVID-19 pandemic response with additional staffing for Wildfire Outbreak response and recovery. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor these situations and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

Level I	(Emergency Conditions)
Level II	(Escalated Response Conditions)
Level III	(Increased Readiness Conditions)
Level IV	(Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem-web.webflow.io/response/state-operations-center#tab-2>

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